

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EA-06 ISO-00 AGR-05 SP-02 AID-05 NSC-05

CIEP-01 TRSE-00 SS-15 STR-04 OMB-01 CEA-01 AF-06

ARA-06 EUR-12 NEA-10 IO-10 SAJ-01 CIAE-00 COME-00

FRB-03 INR-07 NSAE-00 USIA-06 XMB-02 OPIC-03 LAB-04

SIL-01 L-03 H-02 DODE-00 PA-01 PRS-01 /131 W

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FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6049

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PASS STARKEY/USDA/FAS/S&TP/FCA

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAGR, RP

SUBJECT: CONTINUED PRESS REPORTING ON PHILIPPINE SUGAR SALES

REF: MANILA 9813

1. PRESS JULY 31 PLAYED UP REPORTS OF SUGAR SALES TO SOVIET UNION, PRC AND ROMANIA.

2. STORY ON OVIEET DEAL WAS BASED ON AFP ITEM FROM NEW YORK WHICH REPORTED PURCHASE OF 500,000 TONS REPORTEDLY FOR EAST EUROPEAN COUNTRIES OR VIET-NAM AND NORTH KOREA. SAME AFP ITEM ALSO REPORTED RUMOR OF SALE TO CHINA. INTERESTINGLY, ALL PAPERS CARRIED IDENTICAL DISCLAIMER TO EFFECT THAT PNB WHICH HANDLES SUGAR EXPORTS DECLINED TO COMMENT ON THIS AFP REPORT.

3. REGARDING SALE TO ROMANIA, PRESS CARRIED PROMINENT FRONT PAGE STORIES REPORTING PRESIDENT RECEIVING ROMANIAN CHARGE
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D'AFFAIRES BOGDAN BALTAZAR WHO, AT REQUEST OF PRESIDENT

CEAUSESCU, CONVEYED OFFER TO PURCHASE 50,000 TONS OF PHILIPPINE SUGAR AND TO TRADE AGRICULTURAL MACHINERY, VEHICLES, AND ROLLING STOCK IN RETURN. GOP REPLY WAS IN FORM OF SUGGESTION BY PRESIDENT MARCOS THAT THE ROMANIAN GOVERNMENT PREPARE AN AIDE MEMOIRE ON EXPANSION AND ACCELERATION OF PHILIPPINE-ROMANIAN TRADE.

4. IN CHECKING OUT ABOVE, TRADE SOURCES HAVE TOLD US THAT GOP HAS SOLD 100,000 TONS RAWS TO PRC; 150,000 TONS RAWS TO USSR, PRICE NOT KNOWN, AND COMMITTED AN ADDITIONAL UNKNOWN QUANTITY; AND 50,000 TONS REFINED TO MIDDLE EAST. ON OTHER HAND, PNB CONTINUES TO REFUSE TO CONFIRM OR DENY ANY DEVELOPMENTS UPON OUR INQUIRIES.
SULLIVAN

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